

Stanger Speaks

Local Water Districts Belong to the People

October 12, 1951

Editor, Torrance Press:

I notice in the issue of your paper dated October 11, 1951, that Mr. A. E. McVicar pointed out to the members of the board, that "In view of the anticipated spread of population to unserved outlying portions of the City, he feels the necessity has arisen for the formulation of a main extension policy in line with that of other utilities, establishing limits to which main extensions might be made."

I wonder if someone in the City Administration does not realize that the water districts belong to the property owners. The other utilities do not collect taxes every year from the property owners, but do pay taxes to the City for installations made by them.

When the bond elections were held in the three water districts, boundaries were established and the property owners in the districts have been taxed since the sale of the bonds. Those property owners are entitled to water mains, either from the bond money or from surplus revenue derived from the sale of water without any additional cost regardless of how far they happen to be from the present mains.

The spread of population has been going on for the past fourteen years to unserved parts of the districts and water mains have been laid to new dwellings and industries without any expense to the builders, with the exception of subdivisions and that is taken care of by ordinance.

The Water Department has always been in a financial position to accommodate most consumers except in one of the districts, which was burdened with a worn out system to start with that took all the surplus to repair and replace old mains, but even at that some new mains were laid and the district was on the black side of the ledger as of July 1, 1951.

We should never forget that the property owners are the ones that the water districts belong to and that they pay all of the bills.

Sincerely yours, (signed) W. H. STANGER.

(Editor's Note: William H. Stanger retired as Superintendent of the Torrance Municipal Water District on Aug. 1 of this year. He has been both a mayor and councilman of Torrance and is recognized as an authority on water problems.)

Torrance Short of Schools

Even with all the new modern schools and the reconditioned dilapidated bungalows which Torrance inherited from Los Angeles, the student population continues to outdistance the room space available, it was revealed this week by Board of Education officials.

It is believed that the latest industrial invasion by defense workers is to a large extent responsible for this. Latest Board figures show that 341 students are now on half-day sessions.

All half-day session classes are being conducted in the first three grades. There are 118 first graders in this group, 54 second graders, and 169 third graders. Superintendent J. Heinrich Hull revealed that an attempt has been made to give all the children their full academic background.

He disclosed the greatest hardship under the double session falls on parents. He said that under the short day program all essential subjects get a perogative, it is a little more difficult to give youngsters their full share of directed play under this setup, he further pointed out.

Vacancies Filled

Two vacancies on the Library Board were filled by the Torrance City Council at the last regular meeting. Mrs. Juanita Thompson was appointed for two years. Kenneth Bloomfield received an appointment for a year. Approval of both candidates was unanimous.



DENNEE'S FIRST TELEVISION CUSTOMER opening preparations are underway and will be IN TORRANCE, (left) Hector John Thermos of the San Pedro is given the glad hand by Manager Jim Nicola of Dennee's Torrance branch. Grand

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Jury Hits Majority Of Board

The powerful Los Angeles Board of Education's political organization, which exerted such pressure in opposition to the withdrawal of Torrance schools from the Los Angeles system in 1946-47, is rapidly falling apart under the investigation of the District Attorney's office into the relationship between School Board members and contractors doing business with the school district.

The break-down of the potent political power started soon after the successful Torrance withdrawal campaign which was climaxed with the adoption of the City Charter providing for the establishment of Torrance school district. Torrance had tried to withdraw from Los Angeles schools twice in previous years, but failed under Los Angeles opposition.

However, parents became weary of the way schools were being run here, and on the third try, they successfully and almost single-handedly pulled out of the Los Angeles system.

Culver City followed the Torrance pattern the same year.

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School Bus Survey Ordered by Board

Parents Protests Of Service Studied

Beginning Friday of this week, children in kindergarten through the third grade at 203rd Street School will ride to school, the Torrance Board of Education agreed this week at a regular meeting.

Further, on the recommendation of Superintendent J. Heinrich Hull, the Board authorized a survey of the whole bus problem. Board member Bill Tolson made a motion that a competent transportation man be hired for the survey. The Board accepted his motion unanimously.

Hull said that he believed a full time bus dispatcher should be hired for the district to supervise the routing of buses and the timing of runs.

"I would like to have the survey first," said Hull, "to determine whether there is enough work to keep a man occupied full time. I frankly think there is."

Board members showed the importance of living in a democratic society. Although they were opposed to bus service for youngsters in the lower grades, four of the five members had reversed their opinion after listening to 60 parents last week at a Board meeting.

While Board members Schidler, Carl D. Steele, William H. Tolson, and Mrs. Grace Wright agreed that everything should be done to furnish buses to children in districts where definite hazards exist, Dr. Rollin E. Smith appeared to be hostile toward the new policy.

"I don't believe in bowing to these people. We have to be firm," Smith said. "I went besides snow when I was a kid. Besides, after the third grade they have to learn to walk through traffic. I don't see how we can have enough buses."

Smith said that he didn't believe in coddling children. "We shouldn't give in to emotional parents," he declared. "However, we must remain courteous."

Judge John A. Schidler, chairman of the board, summed up the attitude of the four Board members in his remarks to representatives of the 203rd St.

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Students Get New Teacher

The influx of defense workers who man the industrial plants in the Torrance area has had a tendency of upsetting the stability of the local school population. Dr. Heinrich Hull, superintendent of schools, this week disclosed that it has become necessary to employ seven new elementary teachers so far this year.

Hull said that three of the seven are replacements. The other four were needed to take care of Torrance's growing population. Teachers hired were Jacqueline Corbin Boyton and Richard Pascoe Sinclair. They were both employed on Sept. 24 at a salary of \$3,400.

Other teachers employed by industry include Ruth Prentice Magee, an elementary teacher who was hired at \$3,250.00 on Oct. 4.

Theodore Turner came into the school system at an annual salary of \$3,700 on Sept. 25. Lena Redfern was hired Sept. 21 at a salary of \$4,200.00. Joyce Schindele who replaced a teacher bound for Europe was hired Oct. 15 for \$3,400. Last of the seven listed by unofficial board minutes is Ethel Boomer Small. She was taken into the system on Oct. 10, also at a salary of \$3,400.

Dr. Hull pointed out that the amount paid to a new teacher is dependent entirely on professional background.

RENTALS! WHOSE GOT RENTALS?

How would you like to receive 100 prospects on a 6-line classified ad? You say it can't be done, but Heally Realty of 4655 W. Century Blvd., Inglewood know that it CAN HAPPEN!

Last week, Heally Realty Co. placed a small classified ad in the Torrance press advertising 2- and 3-bedroom homes for rent. They were overwhelmed with the results, in fact, they couldn't answer the phone fast enough.

Heally Realty is no different from anyone else! Anyone can get the same results in the Torrance Press. The reason is: The Torrance Press is the only newspaper in Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City, and Shoestring Strip that delivers to every door, 13,500 homes.

So call Torrance 1185 and ask for a classified ad taker. She will be glad to give you advice on how to get the most results for your money.

Here is the ad that brought such outstanding results: Corner Prairie Ave. and Redondo Beach Blvd. New two- and three- bedroom homes - immed. possession. Call FR 4-0302 or Orchard 7-9288 or Pleasant 1-2903.



TEACHER BONNIE BALLARD PROETT, seated in the center, gives three students in her second grade class one last chance to look over an animal book which her group discussed during the last hour. Students standing are left to

right Karen Jacobsen of 3223 West 189th Street; Betty Van Drew of 3119 West 187th Place, and Gordon Little of 1901 West 190th Street. All students in the picture attend Crenshaw Street School.

OFF TO GERMANY

Torrance Teacher Takes Post In Europe with Army Engineers

Second-graders of Mrs. Bonnie Ballard Proett's class at Crenshaw Street School had both good and bad news this week. First they found out that their 32-year-old red-headed teacher had resigned to take a job as stenographer with the U. S. Army in Europe.

That was bad news. All 40 youngsters were fond of Mrs. Proett. When she introduced their new teacher - charming Mrs. Joyce Schindele - that was good news.

Mrs. Proett who signed a two-year contract with the U. S. Army Engineers said that she regretted leaving her class.

"I've always wanted to see the other side of the Atlantic," she confessed, "and I'm not getting any younger."

Mrs. Proett will leave the United States for Germany on Oct. 26.

"Once we get to Germany, headquarters for the Army Engineers in Europe," she said, "then we might be sent anywhere on the Continent. We might go to Sweden, Norway, or any of several other places. I'm certainly looking forward to the trip."

The traveling-minded school teacher said that she has a two-year contract in Europe and plans to return to the teaching profession at the end of that period.

Mrs. Proett said that she is

Board Hires Appraisers

Due to the fast growth of Torrance and in an effort to prevent as many half day sessions as possible, the Board of Education has found it necessary to plan new housing facilities for its mushrooming student population. This week the Board unanimously adopted a motion to employ two appraisers at the rate of fifty dollars a day, not to exceed ten days for each site appraisal.

Appraisers John H. Gastlin and Frank E. Lockwood were hired to do the job.

Prosperity Hits New High Here

Prosperity among workers in Torrance has hit a new high. Figures disclosed by Winona Ellis, manager of the California State Employment office here this week, show that unemployment in this area has dropped to its lowest ebb since the end of World War II.

Only 1,025 persons are seeking work at the present time, most of whom are skilled workers and more than half of whom are women. This represents a drop of almost 5,000 from a postwar peak three weeks ago.

Population Zooms In Local Schools

Enrollment figures for the Torrance Schools continue to soar due to a huge population influx, according to Dr. J. Heinrich Hull, Superintendent of Schools.

He pointed out that on Sept. 21 of this year, there were 5754 students enrolled. Figures for Oct. 9 - a little less than a month later - disclose a total enrollment of 5894. This is an increase of 140 students in this period.

School officials estimate that a teacher should have 30 students per classroom. According to these statistics, Torrance needs almost five new classrooms. The Superintendent said that four new teachers have been hired to meet this need.

"If we only had to plan on the regular residents of Torrance," he contended, "we could handle it. It's the population crowding in from the outside that makes it difficult to meet the needs."

Hull said that the Board of Education has computed figures which show that every tract

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Hull Spikes School Bond Issue Rumor

Rumors that Torrance taxpayers are to be faced with a \$3,000,000 bond issue in the near future remained unconfirmed after the regular Board of Education meeting this week.

Superintendent of Schools J. Heinrich Hull said that if the school building program is to continue, a bond issue would be necessary.

"I don't know what the Board is going to do about it," said Hull. "We certainly need the schools."

Although the Superintendent and Board members refused to commit themselves on the bond issue, they hinted in an indirect way that ways and means of getting more money would have to be given serious consideration.



Post Motors opened its doors this week. Pictured above is Carl Billstein. Below is Wade Glenn. These two men are the founders of the new concern.



Post Motors Opens Doors

Post Motors opened its doors this week offering a complete service for autos. The concern located at 1336 Post avenue, across the street from the Roth Market, is operated by Carl Billstein, former manager of the Public Loan Corporation of Torrance, and Wade Glenn, former sales manager for the Nash Agency in Redondo Beach. Prior to that Glenn was in the trucking business.

Although Billstein and Glenn, at present do not live in Torrance, they are looking for

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Community Chest Workers Are Volunteers, Your Neighbors